

Message Text

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65-61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9391

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP, GW

SUBJECT: SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH NATO

REFS: (A) BONN 5598, (B) MADRID 2346

1. FONOFF STATES THAT FRG THINKING AS TO HOW SPAIN
MIGHT ACHIEVE A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO HAS NOT
NOTICEABLY EVOLVED SINCE FONMIN GENSCHER DISCUSSED THE
PROBLEM WITH SPANISH OFFICIALS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT
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TO MADRID (REFTELS). HOWEVER, FRG EMBASSIES IN NORWAY,

DENMARK, THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED DISCREETLY TO SOUND OUT THE GOVERNMENTS TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCREDITED ON THE SUBJECT. THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE ONLY TRANSMITTED ON APRIL 11, AND FONOFF HAS AS YET RECEIVED NO REPORTS AS TO THE RESULTS OF THESE SOUNDINGS.

2. FONOFF NOTES THAT GENSCHER VISIT TO SPAIN HAD AROUSED LESS DOMESTIC CRITICISM THAN IS USUAL FOR THESE ANNUAL MEETINGS BETWEEN FRG AND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTERS. OUR FONOFF SOURCE EXPLAINED THE MILD REACTION BY NOTING THAT THE PUBLIC EYE WAS ON EVENTS IN INDOCHINA--AND ON THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRG IS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, FRANCO'S SPAIN REMAINS UNPOPULAR WITH MANY OF ITS SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC SUPPORTERS. THUS, THE FRG PREFERS NOT TO GET TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF ITS ALLIES ON THE QUESTION OF SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH NATO. THE SOUNDINGS REPORTED ABOVE ARE, OF COURSE, DIRECTED TOWARDS THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE OPPOSITION TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP OR ASSOCIATION IS STRONGEST. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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